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App. F. IX-4

Previous References.

(1940-1
War)

War File No. 145-40

Serial Nos. 1

Later References.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. *one only*

Part B for

January 1942.

SUBJECT.

*Communication with prisoners of war
interned abroad.*

*M. Krishnan
11.1.42*

The reply to this communication should be addressed to the Secretary to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, by designation and not by name.

W 145-40-1

1040/w.

No. F5-42/15

FROM

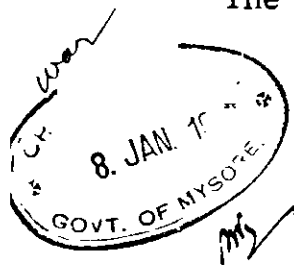
THE SECRETARY

TO THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dated Bangalore, the 8th January 1942.



Communication with prisoners of
war interned abroad.

SIR,

I am directed to forward for information a copy
of a pamphlet entitled 'Communication with Prisoners of
War interned abroad' issued by the Red Cross Commissioner.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

V. K. S. Anand Rao

for SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.

K.R.

COMMUNICATION WITH PRISONERS OF WAR INTERNEED ABROAD.

Note.—In these instructions the term “prisoners of war” includes all interned persons, naval, military, air force and civilian.

HOW TO WRITE TO PRISONERS OF WAR.

1. Write **clearly in ink** in English, Urdu or Hindi on one sheet of paper. (Letters in English are least liable to censorship delays). Mention only purely personal matters. No reference to the fighting forces is allowed. Unmounted photographs of a personal nature may be enclosed but nothing else.

2. **Address.**—Write the address **clearly in ink** in English on the letter and also on the envelope as in the specimens below. (The addressee’s Regiment or Service must not be given). On the top left hand corner of the envelope write “Prisoners of war post” with “Kriegsgefangenenpost” (if the addressee is in German hands) or “Service des prisonniers de guerre” (if he is in Italian hands) underneath. On the *back* of the envelope write in English your own name and *private* address. (Service address or unit must *not* be given). Leave the envelope open for Censor.

3. **Postage.**—Unregistered letters and postcards, addressed to prisoners of war by ordinary post, may be posted without stamps in any post office. If sent by *air mail* they must bear stamps as required by post office regulations.

Front of envelope.

Specimen I (for prisoners whose camp address is known).

Prisoners of War Post.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

or Service des prisonniers de guerre

Regimental Number and Rank and Name.....(*e.g.* No. 147 Sepoy
Ram Singh).

British (Indian) Prisoner of war No.....(If known)

Camp(*e. g.* Oflag 54. IV)

Country(*e. g.* Germany)

Specimen II (for prisoners whose camp address is not known).

Prisoners of War Post.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Service des prisonniers de guerre

Regimental Number and Rank and Name ... (*e. g.*, No. 1234 Corporal
T. Atkins).

British (Indian) Prisoner of War in German (Italian) hands (If known)

Aux soins du Comité International de la Croix Rouge,

Agence Centrale,

Palais du Conseil General,

GENEVE, Switzerland.

Back of Envelope.

Sender's name.....(*e.g.* Shrimati Maya Devi)

Address.....(*e.g.*, Village Lal Kuan, P.O. Ram
Bagh, Moradabad, U.P. India).

PARCEL POST.

4. Parcels for prisoners of war packed as for Indian inland post may be addressed and posted unstamped in the same way as letters. The name and address of the prisoner and of the sender must be written on the cover and a list of the contents must be enclosed. Parcels must not weigh more than 10 lbs. and they must not contain any of the articles detailed below:—

- (i) Written communications (letters must be sent separately).
- (ii) Printed matter.
- (iii) Pictorial illustrations and photographs.
- (iv) Money, stamps, stationery and playing cards.
- (v) Articles in tubes, tins and other receptacles, which cannot easily be opened for inspection.
- (vi) Spirits or solidified spirit for cooking stoves, matches or any other inflammable material.
- (vii) Food, including sweets and dried fruits.
- (viii) Photographic apparatus, field glasses, sextants, compasses, electric torches and other instruments of use for naval and military purposes.
- (ix) Medical comforts. This includes medicines of all kinds, drugs and bandages.
- (x) Complete suits, coloured or grey flannel trousers, sports coats or blazers, mackintoshes or any kind of overcoat. (These items of clothing, however, may be sent to civilians).

The following are among articles which may be sent :—

- Blankets. Brilliantine in tins. Brushes of all kinds.
- Button-cleaning outfits (solid, not liquid polish).
- Chewing gum. Chocolate in slabs.
- Cigarette filter tips and cigarette rolling machine with cigarette papers.
- Clothing, including underwear, civilian or Service shirts, any footwear, knitted comforts, or uniform.
- Coloured silks and cottons. Plain linen or canvas for embroidering.
- Dentifrice (solid or powder but NOT in tubes).
- Frames with talc or unbreakable glass.
- Hussifs containing usual items.
- Kit bags. Knitting needles and wool.
- Pencils. Pipes, and tobacco pouch.
- Safety razors and blades. Safety tin openers.
- Shoe polish (solid, not liquid or in tubes).
- Small musical instruments.
- Soap of all kinds. Towels, face cloths and sponges.

5. **Parcels for internees in neutral countries.**—These may be posted in the same way as parcels for other prisoners of war. None of the articles numbered (i) to (vii) in para 4 above may be sent.

6. **Customs duty**—This is not charged on parcels sent to prisoners of war and no customs forms need be sent with parcels.

7. **Newspapers and periodicals.**—These may be posted in the ordinary way to internees in neutral countries, but not to prisoners of war in enemy hands.

TELEGRAMS.

8. Telegrams may not be sent direct to prisoners of war but in certain cases the Indian Red Cross Commissioner Simla/New Delhi can arrange for messages to be sent by telegram if the cost is paid.

Note.—The instructions above are an abstract of Postal Notice No. GIPD-M-49 postal, dated the 13th August, 1941, issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to all post masters.

9. **Parcels sent from England to prisoners of war.**—The British Red Cross and Indian Comforts Fund send every week to British, Dominion, Indian and Colonial prisoners of war in Germany and Italy parcels weighing 10 lbs. (costing approximately Rs. 7/-) and containing food, cigarettes, tobacco and soap. The parcels for Indian prisoners contain suitable food including articles from India such as dal, ata, ghi and spices. In addition the Indian Comforts Fund acting as "next of kin" sends to each Indian prisoner a quarterly parcel of clothing and comforts. The clothing and comforts parcels which cost £ 4 each contain blankets, pyjamas, shoes, towels, handkerchiefs, razor and blades, socks, vest, pants, shaving stick, Toothbrush, pullover, shirts, and tooth-paste in tins. Arrangements can be made for despatch of uniforms and uniform overcoat also if needed. Contributions towards defraying this expenditure will be gratefully received by the Red Cross Commissioner, Simla/New Delhi.

10. **Books.**—Certain publishers and booksellers in India hold special permits from the Censorship department for the despatch of literature to prisoners of war. These include Messrs. R. S. Gulab Singh and Sons, Lahore, Syed Muntaz Ali and Sons, Lahore, Newal Kishore Press, Lucknow, Wazir-i-Hind Press, Amritsar, Indian Press Ltd., Allahabad, and Messrs. Thacker & Co. Ltd., Bombay. They can accept orders for the despatch of books direct to prisoners of war whose addresses are known but in no case can they accept books for forwarding to prisoners.

11. **Tobacco and Cigarettes.**—Parcels containing tobacco and cigarettes may be sent direct to prisoners of war in *enemy and enemy occupied countries* without special permit in the same way as other parcels.

Tobacco and cigarettes may be sent to persons interned in *neutral countries* only by firms who hold special permits from the Censorship Department. Among these firms are The Army and Navy Stores, Bombay; D. Marcopolo & Co., Bombay; Phipson & Co., Bombay and Spencer & Co., Madras.

Red Cross Commissioner,
Simla, 1-10-41.

Subd for perusal. This pamphlet has been displayed in all the Post Offices for public information

JAN 9 1942

NO 7000.

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.